CLAIMS

1. A device for impact protection of a sectional overhead door having top and bottom portions joined by lateral edges and movable between open and closed positions, comprising:

an elongated beam supportable in channels and box members on the beam and on a surface adjacent the door, arranged to releasably interfit at a closed position of the door and hold the beam in laterally spaced relation to the door;

at least one lifting rod and a complimentary lifting rod receiver, one of which being mounted on the beam and the other adapted to be mounted on the door and arranged to be engaged such that the beam is carried responsive by the overhead door between the open and closed positions thereof and such that the lifting rod and lifting rod receiver are operably disengaged at the closed position to permit movement of the beam relative to the door.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

paired opposed wall stops carried by a wall supporting the sectional overhead door, and configured to be positioned to receive and support the beam with the door in the open position, to prevent impact damage to the lower portion of the opened overhead door in the open position.

3. An overhead door protecting beam device comprising:

an elongated beam extending to opposed ends;

a channel for each beam end and a box member shaped to be releasably received by the channel, with one of said channel and box member being adapted to be secured to a support adjacent to an overhead door and to interfit with the other one of said channel and box member to secure the beam against lateral movement; and

at least one lifting rod and lifting receiver shaped to releasably receive the lifting rod, the lifting receiver and lifting rod being configured for interconnection between the beam and door such that elevational movement of the door will cause similar elevational movement of the beam.

4. The overhead door protecting beam of claim 3, further comprising:

a structure mountable stop shaped to receive and secure said beam from impacting said door at an opened position thereof.

5. The protecting beam as set forth by claim 3, wherein the beam is formed of a plastic.

6. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 3 wherein the rod extends from a lifting gusset configured to be mounted to the door.

7. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 3 further comprising a rectangular box end member on the beam with a slotted front for receiving said lift rod.

8. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 3, wherein said at least one lift rod includes an end hook for latching engagement with the beam.

9. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a safety cable configured to join the beam and door.

10. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 3, wherein the lifting receiver is located on the beam, and shaped to releasably receive the at least one lifting rod and such that the beam may be engaged and moved elevationally responsive to elevational movement of the at least one rod and such that the beam may move laterally with respect to the at least one rod.

11. A safeguarding beam device for positioning in front of a sectional overhead door as a vehicle impediment, comprising:

an elongated impact absorbing beam;

at least one channel adapted to be secured to a support separate from the beam and positioned to releasably receive at least a part of the beam at a closed door position;

a rod configured to be mounted to the door and to project therefrom;

means latching said rod to said beam for elevationally moving the beam in response to elevational movement of the door;

a stop configured to be mounted to a surface separate from the beam for blocking said beam from striking said door at an open position thereof.

12. The device of claim 11 further comprising an annunciator means operable upon impact of said beam, to produce an identifiable signal.

13. The device of claim 11 wherein the channel is separate from the beam and the beam includes box end members shaped to be received by the channel.

14. The device of claim 11 wherein the beam includes a front surface that is substantially vertical, an inclined surface leading angularly from the front surface to an upwardly curved surface that leads to a top surface.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the beam includes ends that include box configurations each for reception by a channel.

16. The device of claim 11 wherein the beam is hollow and formed of plastic.

17. A process for protecting an overhead door mounted to a wall above a floor and movable elevationally between an open and closed position, comprising the steps of: mounting an elongated beam to the door in spaced relation thereto and spanning the door, in such a manner that the beam is laterally secured to at least one of the wall and floor with respect to the door at a closed position of the door, and such that the beam is elevationally movable by the door to an open door position in which the beam is suspended from the door.

18. An overhead door and protecting beam device comprising:

a sectional overhead door including hinged panels;

guide rails movably mounting the door for movement between an open and a closed position;

an elongated beam extending to opposed ends;

a channel for each beam end and a box member shaped to be releasably received by the channel, with one of said channel and box member being adapted to be secured to a support adjacent to the

overhead door and to interfit with the other one of said channel and box member to secure the beam against lateral movement at the closed position; and

at least one lifting rod and lifting rod receiver shaped to releasably receive the lifting rod, the lifting receiver and lifting rod being configured for interconnection between the beam and the door such that elevational movement of the door will cause similar elevational movement of the beam.

19. The overhead door protecting beam of claim 18, further comprising:

a structure mountable stop shaped to receive and secure said beam from impacting said door at the open position.

20. The protecting beam as set forth in claim 18 wherein the rod extends from a lifting gusset mounted on the door.